DMU trains between Anand and Khambat (BG) will be introduced shortly.

Opening of New Jogighopa-Guwahati Rail Line

1023. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the newly built rail line from Jogighopa to Guwahati would be opened; and

(b) what difficulties are being faced by Government in sanctioning the new loop line from New Moynaguri via Gauripur to Jogighopa, after the initial expenditure of Rs. 1 crore for preliminary survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The work on the line would be completed by 31.3.2000.

(b) The work has been included in the Railway Budget 2000-2001.

Concessions in Passenger Fares

1024. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that concessions in passenger fares doled out by successive Railways Ministers over the years cost the Railways Rs. 120 crore every month on an average and Rs. 1,440 crore per year, and that the loss amounts to around 15 per cent of the total passenger earnings of Railways; and

(b) if so, what steps are being proposed to balance the above loss to the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(b) Concessions are granted as a part of Railways' social obligation towards certain categories of persons like senior citizens, disabled persons, students, etc. There are no plans at present to balance the loss of revenue on this account.